

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABIDJA 06849 111101Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4373

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, XA, US, IV

SUBJECT: REACTION TO SECRETARY'S SPEECH

REFS: (A) STATE 156471, (B) ABIDJAN 6834

1. SECRETARY VANCE'S AFRICA SPEECH OF JULY 1 WAS DELIVERED DURING THE ABSENCE OF PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY AND HIS KEY ADVISERS AT THE OAU MEETING IN LIBREVILLE. ACCORDINGLY, THE REACTION OF THESE KEY IVORIAN OFFICIALS HAS NOT BEEN AVAILABLE. THERE IS, IN ADDITION, ALWAYS A TIME LAG IN THE IVORY COAST BETWEEN MAJOR POLICY PRONOUNCEMENTS ABROAD AND THE LOCAL REACTION TO THEM. WE SHOULD IN COMING WEEKS BE ABLE TO JUDGE THE IMPACT OF THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH BETTER THAN WE CAN AT PRESENT. THAT REACTION IS UNLIKELY TO BE REFLECTED IN POINTED PUBLIC COMMENTARIES BUT IS APT TO EMERGE IN THE COURSE OF CONVERSATIONS WITH SENIOR IVORIAN OFFICIALS ONCE THEY HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO DIGEST THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE SECRETARY'S PRESENTATION.

2. MEANWHILE, IVORIAN EXPOSURE TO THE SPEECH HAS BEEN WIDESPREAD. JULY 2 ISSUE OF FRATERNITE MATIN, IVORY COAST'S DAILY PAPER WHICH IS GOVERNMENT-MANAGED, GAVE DETAILED NEWS COVERAGE TO THE SPEECH, STRESSING THE SECRETARY'S COMMENTS ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN AND AMERICAN ATTITUDES TOWARD THE ISSUE
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OF MAJORITY RULE IN NAMIBIA, RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA. WE HAVE, IN ADDITION, GIVEN WIDE CIRCULATION TO THE FRENCH TEXT OF THE SPEECH, DELIVERING COPIES TO THE PRESIDENCY, FOREIGN OFFICE AND OTHER MINISTRIES.

3. WE BELIEVE THAT REACTION IN THE IVORY COAST WILL BE EXTREMELY FAVORABLE AND WE WILL BE REPORTING SPECIFIC REACTIONS

AS THEY DEVELOP.
STEARNS

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